

Sidewalk Meeting September 15, 2015

Town Hall 7:30 pm-9:30 pm

Meeting on the Impact of Proposed Sidewalks on the historic character of Garrett Park

Summary of Comments from Meeting tape, Elizabeth Henley's notes, Gene Swearingen's notes, List of speakers

7:30 **Mayor Benjamin** – Please sign in

Speakers: Pat Aufderheide, Liz Overstreet, Sid Rosenzweig, Jane McClintock, Marian Green, Charlie Snyder, Dick Pratt, Bill Elwood, Tim Tamburrino (Maryland Historical Trust) MHT, Joanna Welch, Kristin Altar, Jeff Duyn, Dan Simons, Alberto Martinez, Jill Stevens, John Mulligan, Steph Hooton, Nguyen Nhan, Barbara Jackson, Lizzie Youle, Julia Bonner, John Smith, Michael Lutkenhouse, Mike Grieb, Lizzie Glidden-Boyle, George Martin.

7:47 **Pat Aufderheide:** 10908 Clermont. From a historical perspective, the sidewalk has been there as long as “we’ve been here,” and looks like it has been there longer than that, happy for repairs on Clermont.

7:48 **Liz Overstreet:** 10707 Montrose. Gave a presentation of slides – 1975 National Registry of Historic Places, Historic District is a major part of the town. SRTS comes from a federal agency. What are the adverse effects on setting, feeling, alters historic district effect, not just physical but visual, aesthetic detract, sidewalks do create an adverse effect; reference to letter from MHT, reference to letter from town, alternatives are there but are not considered by the town, defining characteristics, R-O-W of concrete – discordant elements, residents of these streets have said no new sidewalks.

7:56 **Sid Rosenzweig:** 10808 Montrose. “Not aware of any Victorian ruling or objection against sidewalks.” Sidewalks are a part of the Victorian aesthetic. Town’s original Charter showed “presumed” sidewalks – sidewalks taken into account. No aesthetic issue against sidewalks. “If I go to Takoma Park, there are sidewalks; if I go to...there are sidewalks...”

(**Phil Schulp** asked about where Sid got his information on sidewalks – the Town has complied with regulations, not impact tree canopy.)

8:00 **Jane McClintock:** 4405 Oxford. Jane downloaded the Library of Congress 1887 original prospectus, pictures clearly illustrate people standing on sidewalks, strongly supportive of the sidewalk project because of the traffic, Oxford is difficult for kids to walk on.

8:03 **Marian Green:** of 11010 Montrose. Referenced Roger K. Lewis, Professor Emeritus, UMD, article, “Historic Preservation and Development Can Be Friends,” (article on application of historic preservation with development, also references N. Schwartz comprehensive report including boardwalks.

8:06 **Charlie Snyder:** 10910 Montrose. Garrett Park was designed as a pioneering 19th Century suburb, laid out by William Saunders in 1886, (who founded “Grange”), sales pitch showing sidewalks, sidewalks not seriously considered until the 1960’s, 11018 Kenilworth (home of GP mayor Eugene Brady), 10712 Keswick [currently the Mulligan’s].

8:15 **Dick Pratt**, 11112 Rokeby. Sidewalks are compatible with Garrett Park's historic listing, the county is only concerned with architecture. A parallel example: bridge railings, "logical and gentle" arrived in Garrett Park in 1966. Garrett Park is not a Williamsburg, but a 19th century village plan. There should be no basic problem with sensitively designed sidewalks, use flowing design, tinted colors. [Dick brings Public Works experience.]

8:21 **Bill Elwood**, 10700 Shelley Ct: Asked Tim Tamburrino (MHT) "have you considered the unique qualities and aesthetics of the town?"

8:23 **Tim Tamburrino** (MHT) expressed concerns in November 2013, said he was here to listen. (Gene's notes – reference to letters, have not seen (?))

8:23 **Joanne Welch**: Why do you not analyze that?

Tim Tamburino: Now it's a concept, we need to see more detailed plans.

8:24 **Kristin Altar** 11100 Kenilworth: Moved to Garrett Park in 1998, values the beautiful, historic, rural feel of the town, concrete not compatible with that feel.

8:26 **Jeff Duyn**, 10709 Keswick: Moved here in 2006; no one helped Ruth Pinkson cut down those vines (wrapped around 20 trees) to help save the trees, and they died. Trees are overstated in historic preservation.

8:28 **Dan Simons**, 10704 Weymouth, 4609 Waverly: He has dual citizenship, "proud to be an American". In favor of a sidewalk on Oxford; I believe safety and sensibility go together. Most historic buildings in town have sidewalks in front of them, safety has to be considered with the historic context. It is safer to stand or walk on a sidewalk, then to stand or walk in a street.

8:31 **Alberto Martinez**, 4402 Oxford: he is against sidewalks for many reasons, trees will be impacted by sidewalks, use of money that could be used by others more worthy?

8:35 **Jill Stevens**, 10914 Clermont: What are the alternative design & materials opportunities, are there options to move forward to meet the many objectives, re: linearity of the material, alternatives to white concrete, is there a middle way that would help everyone?

8:38 **John Mulligan**, 10712 Keswick: He is on corner of Oxford, on Sidewalk Committee, attended Nov 14, 2014 Historic Preservation Meeting. Reference to a letter from 1967 re: All residents of Oxford want to preserve rural atmosphere, he is against sidewalks, he has been walking up Oxford since 2006, sidewalks will take away open space, green space, traffic is not a problem. Are there alternatives restricting traffic, a stone path, signage, will send written ideas to the town.

8:43 **Phil Schulp** (Town Council): Question to Nancy Schwartz – "Do you have this letter?"

Nancy Schwartz responds.

8:45 **Steph Hooton**, 10708 Shelley Court. I have lived in Garrett Park since 1999. Cars park on both sides of the street; be consistent with decision making; she is in extreme agreement with sidewalks; sidewalks were already built when the Historic District was approved. Sidewalks were already built before the roads were paved. "Cars and kids do not mix." Plantings being lost is a non issue. The town does a good job with landscaping.

8:50 **Nguyen Nhan**, 4600 Oxford, has lived in Garrett Park since 1971, says 2-7 children are walking to school along Oxford; sometimes only 1; parents driving their children to school; no need for sidewalk if speed limit is under 25 MPH.

8:53 **Barbara Jackson**, 10922 Montrose, I've lived in Garrett Park since 1957, this is my 4th house in town. Read the Garrett Park Historic Preservation (GPHP) report from 2013; **there are simple, less costly solutions, the town should look at alternatives.** letter to Rodney Little.

8:56 **Lizzie Youle**, 10811 Oxford, I grew up walking along town streets, there is no problem.

Julia Bonner, 10702 Clermont. There is a campaign at Garrett Park Elementary for an information session for parents on how to drive safely, 22 years old, feels very safe walking and running.

8:59 **John Smith**, 10711 Montrose. I have 3 daughters, one is still in school; Oxford is safe. **SRTS says to do a safety study of Oxford driving and traffic first. Laid out all alternatives.** Nov. letter, Rodney Little.

Tim Tamburrino (MHT): For the record, you *are* following the 106 process, (supposed to complete the 30% design firm).

9:03 **Michael Lutkenhouse**, 10715 Clermont. **"Natural beauty of the location, soft boundaries between the yard and the road, combines beauty with romantic town plan, likes the rural feel, likes lawns coming to the edge of the street. Do sidewalks impact the HPC referral –"soft boundaries between roads and yards"?"**

9:08 **Mike Grieb**, 4705 Strathmore. 16,000- 18,000 cars in 24 hours on Strathmore, the sidewalks might not solve problems.

9:10 **Lizzie Glidden-Boyle**, 4701 Clyde. Doesn't even support the process of how we got here, wants town to take a poll on resident support for sidewalks.

9:12 **George Martin**, 4513 Oxford. I never heard of sidewalks environmentally improving towns; the cost of this project is way higher than projected, the town should walk away from this project.

9:15 (2) **Bill Elwood**, 10700 Shelley Court. There have been a number of recurring themes this evening.

9:16 (2) **Charlie Snyder**, 10910 Clermont. In the early brochure showing sidewalks, there was nobody was *planning* sidewalks, the brochure was not a municipal planning document. Is there a safety issue?

9:21 (2) **John Mulligan**, 10712 Keswick. We are setting a precedent here when we draw conclusions from this meeting.

9:22 (2) **Steph Hooton**, 10708 Shelley Court. **The more signs we put in town to calm traffic, the less rural our town becomes,** up to 800 kids now at the school, How do we keep Garrett Park historic and safe for its residents in a living, breathing, changing town?

9:24 (2) **Kristin Altar**, 11100 Kenilworth. Traffic should go direct from Strathmore to GPES.

9:26 (2) **Jane McClintock**, 4405 Oxford. The law doesn't proscribe a particular outcome. The Town could hold a seminar to understand the process, there may be a misunderstanding– the *process* is the law. "the pearl of anecdote is not data." Could benefit from an understanding of the legal requirements.